

Introduction

The Maternal and Child Health Data and Services Report is intended to be a resource primarily for public health professionals on the health status and service needs of pregnant women, infants, children and adolescents in Washington State. The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), the federal granting agency for the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant (Title V), requires annual reporting of a number of health measures to track the health status of the maternal and child health population (See Appendices B and C). This report is an ongoing attempt to put these measures into broader context and to use this information to develop and evaluate programs and policies. Chapters are designed to be used individually as fact sheets or together, and will be updated periodically as new data are added to the datasets used.

The first section, Health Outcomes and Health Behaviors, contains an initial chapter with county-specific population information as well as trend tables of pregnancy outcomes and infant and child mortality. Subsequent chapters focus on topics relevant to the MCH population, relying primarily on graphs and charts to provide a snapshot of how the Washington State population looks. Each chapter provides data that describe the MCH population overall as well as by county, age, gender, race and ethnicity, rural and urban residence and Medicaid status where available. Yearly data from 1980 through 2003 have been included, when available.

The second section, Publicly Funded Social and Health Services, describes several social, medical and preventive health services targeted for pregnant women, women of reproductive age, infants, children and/or adolescents in Washington. This section has been added in response to an evaluation of the previous data report. It is intended to help the Office of Maternal and Child Health monitor the state's capacity to address the health needs of the MCH population in Washington. Each chapter addresses what the service is, how or where it is provided, who is eligible for the service, who is receiving the service, and what issues or concerns exist regarding the service. As this is the first time all of this information has been provided in a single location and format, some inconsistencies persist, and it is likely that some services which should have been included were overlooked. Our goal is that this section will be updated and will improve over time as staff use this information. Ultimately, we hope to be able to address regional challenges in service provision as well.

The third and final section of the report includes appendices. Appendix A includes technical notes on the data sources used, analytic definitions and statistical information. Appendices B and C, respectively, include information on the MCH priorities and MCH Block Grant required performance and outcome measures.